

ABBA®







ABBA ABBA

■ ABBA ABBA

ABBA was first released in Sweden as Polar POLS 262 on April 21, 1975. Recording sessions began in August 1974 and continued until March 1975. The album was recorded at Glen, Metronome and Ljudkopia studios in Stockholm, Sweden.

■ A famous shot that was used for ABBA's Greatest Hits album in late 1975.

■ The world was listening

Liner notes by Carl Magnus Palm

ABBA's third album, simply titled *ABBA*, was the LP that finally and irrevocably established the group as a major force on the international pop music scene. After slowly coming together and learning how to put their talents to best use through the previous two efforts, *Ring Ring* and *Waterloo*, this was where ABBA truly blossomed for the first time.

The album was recorded between August 1974 and March 1975. It was a hectic time for ABBA, who were fresh after a busy promotion schedule following their victory with *Waterloo* in the Eurovision Song Contest. In November 1974, they embarked on a two week tour of Denmark, West Germany and Austria, with Norway, Sweden and Finland following in January.

The *ABBA* album was born in between these trips, as well as numerous additional assignments: both Frida and Agnetha were recording solo albums, while Björn and Benny were producing records for several other artists signed to the Polar label. The first single off the LP, released as a taster in November 1974,

was *So Long*. The song became a hit in Sweden and West Germany, but most other countries didn't really take the song to their hearts. In some countries, especially Great Britain, ABBA had been branded a "Eurovision one hit wonder" and they were simply not expected to come up with anything worthwhile.

The group next tried their luck with *I Do, I Do, I Do, I Do, I Do*, released just before the album in the Spring of 1975. This single also left the British people pretty cold. But in Australia, where *Waterloo* had already been a sizeable hit, pandemonium broke out.

ABBA had filmed "promo clips" (what we today call videos) for four songs on the album: *I Do, I Do, I Do, I Do, I Do*, *SOS*, *Mamma Mia* and *Bang-A-Boomerang*. These were specifically made for screening in countries where the group needed to do television promotion, but which were located too far away for quick trips. These four clips, like most of ABBA's videos, were





directed by Lasse Hallström, who was just at the start of his career as a successful movie director in Sweden. Since the mid-1980s he has primarily devoted himself to an international career, and is the man behind movies such as *My Life As A Dog*, *The Cider House Rules* and *Chocolat*. When the films for *I Do, I Do, I Do, I Do, I Do* and *Mamma Mia* were shown on the Australian television show *Countdown*, the nation was caught up in an ABBA fever. *I Do, I Do, I Do, I Do, I Do* spent three weeks at number one, which was impressive enough, but it was then immediately followed by *Mamma Mia*, which occupied the top position for no less than 11 weeks. This was the start of what was to become known as "ABBA-mania" in Australia.

I Do, I Do, I Do, I Do, I Do drew inspiration from the American orchestra leader Billy Vaughan, who'd sprung to fame in the late 1950s with his saxophone-laden music. That kind of music was a prominent part of Björn and Benny's musical heritage, and it was only natural that it should find some kind of expression on an ABBA album.

Depending on where you lived in the world, SOS was the third single from the album. For Björn and Benny, who were always very keen to succeed in Great Britain, the song bears especially happy memories. When the single was released in what they called "the home of pop music" in the Autumn of 1975, it became their first major hit since *Waterloo*, 18 months earlier. Many

regard SOS as ABBA's first truly classic single, and certainly, no one can doubt its mastery of everything that pop music is supposed to be about. It was catchy, well-arranged and expertly recorded, and Agnetha's pleading lead vocal captured the imagination of a fair number of listeners.

Incidentally, the characteristic guitar and synthesizer riffs that run throughout the song was something that was added at the very last minute, when Björn and Benny were staying back in the recording studio late one night.

The fourth song to be filmed, *Bang-A-Boomerang*, had a long and convoluted history before it ended up on the ABBA album. An early version of the song had been recorded by the group during album sessions. They were not entirely satisfied with the song, however.

When Björn, Benny and Stig were invited to come up with a song for the Swedish selections for the 1975 *Eurovision Song Contest*, they decided to submit *Bang-A-Boomerang*, but only after parts of it had been rewritten. The song was then given to Polar Music act Svenne & Lotta, who recorded this new version of *Bang-A-Boomerang* and performed it in the Swedish selections. But Svenne & Lotta only finished third, and therefore they didn't go on to the European finals. This meant that song's chances for exposure on an international level were somewhat diminished. ABBA felt it was a shame to let a good recording go

to waste and overdubbed their own vocals on the existing backing track. It was then included on their new album. *Bang-A-Boomerang* never became a major hit anywhere, but there were

Mamma Mia, which restored the group to the number one position on the UK charts. A curious fact about one of ABBA's most familiar songs was that it would never have been released as a

"Mamma Mia was number one for no less than 11 weeks"

many other singles on the album that charted somewhere in the world. For instance, a full year after the album's release, the hunger for anything ABBA-related was so strong in Australia that the record company was able to simply flip the *I Do, I Do, I Do, I Do, I Do* single over and have it chart all over again. The B-side hit, *Rock Me*, reached number four on the chart.

Rock Me was one of two lead vocals for Björn on the album, the other being *Man In The Middle*. Whereas the previous albums had featured the boys' vocals prominently on several tracks, this was the last ABBA album to feature more than one lead vocal by Björn. At one point it looked as if Björn would have three songs on the ABBA album.

A track called *Crazy World*, featuring his lead vocals, was recorded during the sessions, but was ultimately left off the LP. When the group was working on their fourth album, *Arrival*, some more work was made on the track. *Crazy World* was finally released as the B-side of *Money, Money, Money* at the end of 1976. It has been included as a bonus track on this CD.

Perhaps the most well-known hit from the ABBA album was

single if the group's Australian record company at the time, RCA, hadn't demanded it. Added to its formidable Australian success, it also topped the charts in West Germany and Switzerland.

The ABBA album was originally released in Sweden on April 21, 1975, and it became the group's first truly international LP success. It topped the charts in Australia, Sweden, Zimbabwe and Norway, and reached the higher regions in several other countries.

ABBA themselves spent much of the Summer of 1975 touring the Swedish open air folkparks and preparing new material to be recorded. At the beginning of May, they recorded the second bonus selection on this CD. *Medley: Pick A Bale Of Cotton/On Top Of Old Smokey/Midnight Special* was recorded for a West German charity album entitled *Stars Im Zeichen Eines Guten Sterns*, the proceeds of which went to the battle against cancer. This recording remains the only ABBA release of material not written by any of the group members, and was subsequently used for the B-side of their 1978 *Summer Night City* single. ■

ABBA posing in the photo studio in some of their famous costumes. ■





01 Mamma Mia

(B. Andersson/S. Anderson/B. Ulvæus)
Universal/Union Songs AB

I've been cheated by you since I don't know when
So I made up my mind, it must come to an end
Look at me now, will I ever learn
I don't know how but I suddenly lose control
There's a fire within my soul
Just one look and I can hear a bell ring
One more look and I forget everything
Mamma mia, here I go again
My my, how can I resist you
Mamma mia, does it show again
My my, just how much I've missed you
Yes, I've been brokenhearted
Blue since the day we parted
Why, why did I ever let you go
Mamma mia, now I really know
My my, I could never let you go
I've been angry and sad about things that you do
I can't count all the times,
That I've told you we're through
And when you go, when you slam the door
I think you know that you won't be away too long
You know that I'm not that strong
Just one look and I can hear a bell ring
One more look and I forget everything
Mamma mia, here I go again
My my, how can I resist you
Mamma mia, does it show again
My my, just how much I've missed you
Yes, I've been brokenhearted

Blue since the day we parted
Why, why did I ever let you go
Mamma mia, even if I say
Bye bye, leave me now or never
Mamma mia, it's a game we play
Bye bye doesn't mean forever
Mamma mia, here I go again
My my, how can I resist you
Mamma mia, does it show again
My my, just how much I've missed you
Yes, I've been brokenhearted
Blue since the day we parted
Why, why did I ever let you go
Mamma mia, now I really know
My my, I could never let you go

02 Hey, Hey Helen

(B. Andersson/B. Ulvæus)
Universal/Union Songs AB

So at last you're free
It's the way you wanted it to be
And the price you pay
To become a woman of today
Is it worth the pain to see the children cry
Does it hurt when they ask for Daddy
Hey hey Helen
Now you live on your own
Hey hey Helen
Can you make it alone
(Yes you can)
So you're free at last
And beginning to forget the past

Does it make you sad
When you think about the life you had
But you're right, you had to take a second chance
So you fight to find your freedom
Hey hey Helen
Now you live on your own
Hey hey Helen
Can you make it alone
Hey hey Helen (hey hey Helen)
What's the matter with you
Hey hey Helen (hey hey Helen)
Don't you know what to do
(Yes you do)
(Ahah, yes you do yes you do)
(Ahah, yes you do yes you do)
Hey hey Helen
Now you live on your own
Hey hey Helen
Can you make it alone
Hey hey Helen (hey hey Helen)
What's the matter with you
Hey hey Helen (hey hey Helen)
Don't you know what to do
Hey hey Helen (hey hey Helen)
Now you live on your own
Hey hey Helen (hey hey Helen)

03 Tropical Loveland

(B. Andersson/S. Anderson/B. Ulvæus)
Universal/Union Songs AB

Come to my loveland, wander along
Beautiful gardens full of flowers and songs

☀ Soaking up the sun on the island of Viggso.





ABBA 1975

Come to the sunshine, beaches and sand
Listen to bluebirds, won't you come to my land
The grass is mellow and the sky is blue
My paradise is waiting here for you
It's a tropical loveland
I wanna share it with you
Life can be funny
Happy and sunny
In my tropical loveland
Come to my loveland, wander with me
Lie with me darling in the shade of a tree
Over the rainbow, under the moon
That's where my land is, won't you come to me soon
Just take my hand, I'll show you everything
The secrets that my paradise can bring
It's a tropical loveland
I wanna share it with you
Life can be funny
Happy and sunny
In my tropical loveland
It's a tropical loveland
I wanna share it with you
I wanna share it with you
It's a tropical loveland
It's a tropical loveland
I wanna share it with you
It's a tropical loveland
I wanna share it with you

04 SOS

(B. Andersson/S. Anderson/B. Ulvén)
Universal/Union Songs AB

Where are those happy days,
They seem so hard to find
I tried to reach for you, but you have closed your mind
Whatever happened to our love
I wish I understood
It used to be so nice, it used to be so good
So when you're near me, darling can't you hear me
SOS
The love you gave me, nothing else can save me
SOS
When you're gone
How can I even try to go on
When you're gone
Though I try how can I carry on
You seemed so far away,
Though you were standing near
You made me feel alive, but something died I fear
I really tried to make it out
I wish I understood
What happened to our love, it used to be so good
So when you're near me, darling can't you hear me
SOS
The love you gave me, nothing else can save me
SOS
When you're gone
How can I even try to go on
When you're gone
Though I try how can I carry on
So when you're near me, darling can't you hear me
SOS
And the love you gave me, nothing else can save me
SOS
When you're gone

How can I even try to go on
When you're gone
Though I try how can I carry on
When you're gone
How can I even try to go on
When you're gone
Though I try how can I carry on

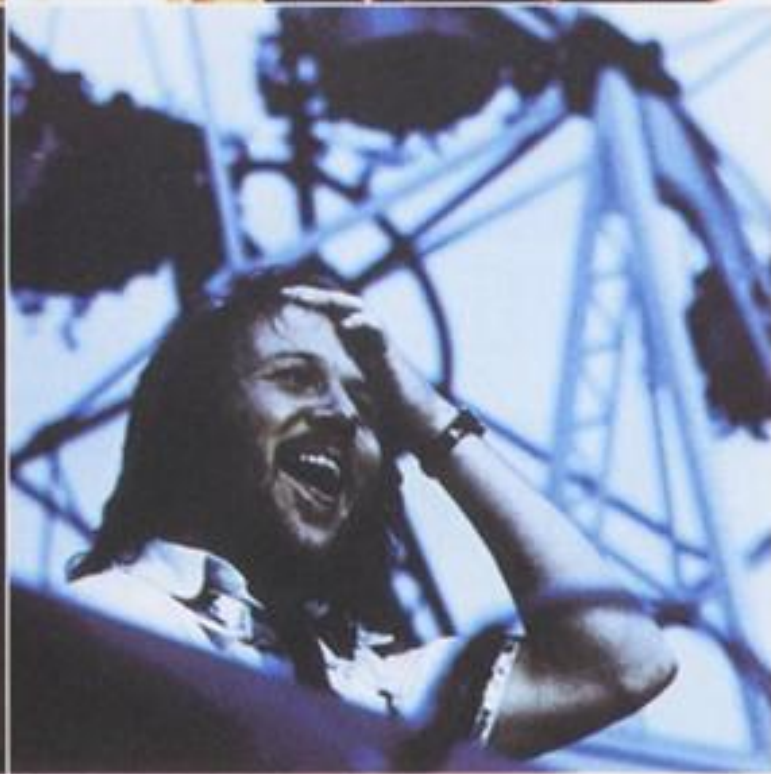
05 Man In The Middle

(B. Andersson/B. Ulvén)
Universal/Union Songs AB

Did you see that man in the limousine
With the pretty poud,
He is fifty and the girl's only seventeen
But she doesn't care, and she never will
If he's ninety-five she don't give a damn
Just as long as he pays the bill
Did you see that man with a fat cigar
He just left his lunch,
With a belly full of lobster and caviar
He can choose the wine from a vintage year
He will drink champagne in his limousine
When the rest of us drink a beer
'cause he's the man in the middle,
Never second fiddle
Just like a spider in a cobweb
Hard as a hammer,
Not the kind of boss you double-cross
'cause he's the man in the middle,
Knows the way to diddle
He's never bothered by his conscience
Deals with the Devil, 'cause he wants to be

Previous spread: Live concert in Stockholm, Summer, 1975. Right: Backstage on tour, Summer 1975.





Man in the middle, the middle, the middle
In the middle
But you see that man made a big mistake
Even though he's got all his servants,
And a mansion beside a lake
And the money too, all that he can spend
He can buy the most, nearly anything
But he can't buy an honest friend
'cause he's the man in the middle, never second fiddle
Just like a spider in a cobweb
Hard as a hammer,
Not the kind of boss you double-cross
'cause he's the man in the middle,
Knows the way to diddle
He's never bothered by his conscience
Deals with the Devil, 'cause he wants to be
Man in the middle, the middle, the middle
In the middle

06 Bang-A-Boomerang

(B. Andersson/S. Anderson/B. Ulvén)
Universal/Union Songs AB

Making somebody happy is a question of give and take
You can learn how to show it so come on,
Give yourself a break
Every smile and every little touch
Don't you know that they mean so much
Sweet sweet kisses so tender
Always will return to sender
Like a bang, a boom-a-boomerang
Dum-be-dum-dum be-dum-be-dum-dum
Oh bang, a boom-a-boomerang

ABBA rocking it up on stage.

Love is a tune you hum-de-hum-hum
By giving away, I think you'll learn
You'll get love in return
So bang, a boom-a-boomerang is love
A boom-a-boomerang is love
Love is always around,
And you can look for it anywhere
When you feel that you've found it,
My advice is to take good care
Never use it as a selfish tool
Never ever be such a fool
Every feeling you're showing
Is a boomerang you're throwing
Yes a bang, a boom-a-boomerang
Dum-be-dum-dum be-dum-be-dum-dum
Oh bang, a boom-a-boomerang
Love is a tune you hum-de-hum-hum
By giving away, I think you'll learn
You'll get love in return
So bang, a boom-a-boomerang is love
And if you're warm and tender
I'll kiss you, return to sender
Please surrender
Bang, a boom-a-boomerang
Dum-be-dum-dum be-dum-be-dum-dum
Oh bang, a boom-a-boomerang is love
A boom-a-boomerang is love

07 I Do, I Do, I Do, I Do, I Do

(B. Andersson/S. Anderson/B. Ulvén)
Universal/Union Songs AB

Love me or leave me,

Make your choice but believe me
I love you
I do, I do, I do, I do, I do
I can't conceal it, don't you see, can't you feel it
Don't you too
I do, I do, I do, I do, I do
Oh, I've been dreaming through my lonely past
Now I just made it, I found you at last
So come on, now let's try it, I love you, can't deny it
'cos it's true
I do, I do, I do, I do, I do
Oh, no hard feelings between you and me
If we can't make it, but just wait and see
So come on now, let's try it, I love you, can't deny it
'cos it's true
I do, I do, I do, I do, I do
So love me or leave me,
Make your choice but believe me
I love you
I do, I do, I do, I do, I do
I can't conceal it, don't you see, can't you feel it
Don't you too
I do, I do, I do, I do, I do

08 Rock Me

(B. Andersson/B. Ulvén)
Universal/Union Songs AB

Rock me, give me that kick now
Rock me, show me that trick now
Roll me, you can do magic
Baby, and I can't get enough of it
Rock me, give me that feeling

ABBA Around

Roll me, rocking and reeling
Baby, so don't stop doing it, don't stop doing it, now
(Don't stop the rocking, don't stop the rocking
I said don't stop the rocking)
Wanna be wanna be in my baby's arms
Gonna be gonna be
Nice and gentle if you want me to
Just as long as I'm in love with you
Yours for ever, honey, that's what I
Wanna be wanna be wanna be, yeah
Rock me, give me that kick now
Rock me, show me that trick now
Roll me, you can do magic
Baby, and I can't get enough of it
Rock me, give me that feeling
Roll me, rocking and reeling
Baby, so don't stop doing it, don't stop doing it, now
(Don't stop the rocking, don't stop the rocking
I said don't stop the rocking)
Wanna be wanna be with the one that I love, love, love
Gonna be gonna be
With you baby every single night
I can teach you how to rock all right
Your sweet lover, honey, that's what I
Wanna be wanna be wanna be, yeah
Rock me, give me that kick now
Rock me, show me that trick now
Roll me, you can do magic
Baby, and I can't get enough of it
Rock me, give me that feeling
Roll me, rocking and reeling
Baby, so don't stop doing it, don't stop doing it
Rock me (rock me), give me that kick now

Roll me (roll me), show me that trick now
Baby, so don't stop doing it, don't stop doing it
Rock me (rock me), give me that feeling
Roll me (roll me), rocking and reeling
Baby, so don't stop doing it, don't stop doing it

09 Intermezzo No. 1

Featuring Benny Andersson (instrumental)
(B. Andersson/B. Ulvaeus)
Universal/Union Songs AB

10 I've Been Waiting For You

(B. Andersson/S. Anderson/B. Ulvaeus)
Universal/Union Songs AB

I, I've been in love before
I thought I would no more
Manage to hit the ceiling
Still, strange as it seems to be
You brought it back to me
That old feeling
I, I don't know what you do
You make me think that you
Possibly could release me
I think you'll be able to
Make all my dreams come true
And you ease me
You thrill me, you delight me
You please me, you excite me
You're something I'd been pleading for
I love you, I adore you
I lay my life before you
I'll have you want me more and more

And finally it seems my lonely days are through
I've been waiting for you
I, I'm gonna make you mine
You're gonna feel so fine
You'll never want to leave me
I feel you belong to me
Someday you will agree
Please, believe me
You thrill me, you delight me
You please me, you excite me
You're something I'd been pleading for
I love you, I adore you
I lay my life before you
I'll have you want me more and more
And finally it seems my lonely days are through
I've been waiting for you
Oh, I've been waiting for you

11 So Long

(B. Andersson/B. Ulvaeus)
Universal/Union Songs AB

You think you're gonna make me softer,
With your fancy car
But I can tell you all your tricks ain't gonna get you far
They say that money's got a magic touch
But not to me, it doesn't mean that much
You won't have me tonight
All right, all right, all right, all right
So long, see you honey
You can't buy me with your money
Tracy, Daisy, they may be crazy
But I'll never be your girl

So long, see you honey
You can't buy me with your money
You know it's not worth trying
So long, so long, so long
You didn't have to send me flowers like you did today
I wouldn't keep a thing from you, I gave them all away
The girls might fall for everything you've got
But I'm not one of them, you know I'm not
You won't have me tonight
All right, all right, all right, all right
So long, see you honey
You can't buy me with your money
Tracy, Daisy, they may be crazy
But I'll never be your girl
So long, see you honey
You can't buy me with your money
You know it's not worth trying
So long, so long, so long
So long, see you honey
You can't buy me with your money
You know it's not worth trying
So long, so long, so long
So long, so long, so long
So long, so long, so long

12 Crazy World

(B. Andersson/B. Ulvæus)
Universal/Union Songs AB

I was up with the morning sun
Couldn't sleep so I thought I'd take a walk
I was thinking of you and me
And I went to your house 'cos I had to talk





I could hardly believe my eyes
 When I saw this guy closing your front door
 Had a feeling of emptiness
 Like I've never had before
 And I close my eyes
 Will you leave me, girl
 And I realise
 It's a crazy world
 As he disappeared in his car
 I was stunned and I didn't know what to do
 Everything I had ever dreamed
 Everything in my life's a part of you
 And I just couldn't move my feet
 So I stood on the pavement as you came out
 You acted as you didn't know
 What it was all about
 And I close my eyes
 Will you leave me, girl
 And I realise
 It's a crazy world
 Baby, how could you do it
 You just told me lies
 Had you been behind my back with other guys
 Baby how could you tell me
 There was only me
 I was stupid to believe you
 I was blind but now I see
 Then you smiled and you took my hand
 There is something, you said, that you may not know
 There's a couple of men in my life,
 And one of them is my brother Joe
 He's been gone for a long long time
 But he's back and I think he's gonna stay

You'll be seeing a lot of him
 He's so nice in every way
 And I close my eyes
 Never leave me, girl
 And I realise
 It's a crazy world
 So I close my eyes
 Never leave me, girl
 Then I realise
 It's a crazy world

13 Medley: Pick A Bale Of Cotton/On Top Of Old Smokey/Midnight Special

(Trad. arr. B. Andersson/B. Jhaeus)
 Universal/Union Songs AB

Gonna jump down, spin around, pick a bale of cotton
 Gonna jump down, spin around, pick a bale a day
 Gonna jump down, spin around, pick a bale of cotton
 Gonna jump down, spin around, pick a bale a day
 Oh lordy, pick a bale of cotton
 Oh lordy, pick a bale a day
 Oh lordy, pick a bale of cotton
 Oh lordy, pick a bale a day
 Oh lordy, pick a bale a day
 I said me and my buddy gonna pick a bale of cotton
 Now me and my buddy gonna pick a bale a day
 I said me and my buddy gonna pick a bale of cotton
 Now me and my buddy gonna pick a bale a day
 Oh lordy, pick a bale of cotton
 Oh lordy, pick a bale a day
 Oh lordy, pick a bale of cotton
 Oh lordy, pick a bale a day
 On top of old Smokey all covered with snow

I lost my true lover by courting so slow
 For courting's a pleasure, and parting is brief
 And a false-hearted lover is worse than a thief
 On top of old Smokey all covered with snow
 I lost my true lover by courting so slow
 Well, you wake up in the morning
 Hear the ding dong ring
 You go marching to the table
 See the same old thing
 See the fork on the table
 Nothing in your pan
 If you say a thing about it
 You're in trouble with the man
 Let the midnight special
 Shine a light on me
 Let the midnight special
 Shine it's everlovin' light on me
 If you ever go to Houston
 Well you'd better act right
 And you'd better not gamble
 And you'd better not fight
 For the sheriff will arrest you
 And he'll take you down
 And before you understand it
 You are prison bound
 Let the midnight special
 Shine a light on me
 Let the midnight special
 Shine it's everlovin' light on me (on me, on me)
 Let the midnight special
 Shine a light on me
 Let the midnight special
 Shine it's everlovin' light on me (on me, on me)

ABBA captured off guard at a photo session.

Credits

Musicians: Guitars: Janne Schaffer, Finn Sjöberg, Björn Ulvæus, Lasse Wellander. Bass: Rutger Gunnarsson, Mike Watson. Drums: Ola Brunkert, Roger Palm. Piano, clavinet and synthesizer: Benny Andersson. Trumpet So Long: Bruno Glenmark. Tenor Sax Man In The Middle: Ulf Andersson. Alto Sax I Do, I Do, I Do, I Do, I Do: Ulf Andersson. String arrangement Mamma Mia: Sven-Olof Walldoff, Intermezzo No. 1 and Crazy World: Björn J:son Lindh. Horn arrangement Intermezzo No. 1: Björn J:son Lindh. Tenor Sax arrangement Man In The Middle: Björn J:son Lindh.

Produced and arranged by Björn Ulvæus and Benny Andersson. Recorded at Glenstudio, Stocksund and Metronome Studio, Stockholm 1974-1975. Mixed at Metronome Studio. Engineered by Michael B. Tretow.

Cover photos by Ola Lager (front, back and bottom inlay). Booklet photos by Bengt H. Malmqvist/Premium Publishing, Lars Falck/Pressens Bild, Sjöberg Classic, Polar Music Int'l. Master tape photo by Tomas Finger. Original art direction by Sten-Åke Magnusson. Art direction and redesign 2001 by Fredrik Hurtig/802. New liner notes 2001 by Carl Magnus Palm, with thanks to Ian Cole and Trent Nickson. Remastered 2001 by Jon Astley with Michael B. Tretow. Reissue supervised by Marko Söderström. Reissue project coordinators: Jeanette Andersson and Margareta Lundström. Thanks to Görel Hanser and Carol Benny.

ABBA in an advertisement for Loo jeans. 





